

**Weekly Status & Information Report:  
Week of February 6, 2006**

- 1. Condo Bill:** City of Takoma Park officials and residents have been lobbying on behalf of MC 612-06, a bill that would help control condominium conversions when jurisdictions have declared a rental housing emergency. The bill received a Favorable vote by the County Affairs Committee of Montgomery County delegates in Annapolis on Thursday. On Friday, it was discussed briefly at the meeting of the full Montgomery County Delegation, but was put on hold for two weeks after some technical questions were raised. This is an important bill, but faces tough opposition. Special thanks to Councilmember Marc Elrich and Mayor Kathy Porter for the time and energy they have put into lobbying for passage of the legislation. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
- 2. Recruiting:** Three of five candidates for Communications Dispatcher passed their oral interviews today and will proceed into the background investigation phase. A police entry exam is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11, with 25 candidates scheduled for testing. (*Police*)
- 3. Montgomery College Silver Spring Expansion (Ward 1):** Montgomery College will hold a community meeting on Monday, February 13, at 7 p.m., to provide an update on the current designs and construction for the expansion project underway at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. The meeting will be held in the Bliss Room of the Commons Building, 7600 Takoma Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. This project will go before the Planning Board for Mandatory Referral February 23rd. For more information, please see [http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/news/News\\_Archives/news01300601.html](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/news/News_Archives/news01300601.html) or call Chahnaz McRae at 301-251-7374 or [Chahnaz.mcrae@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Chahnaz.mcrae@montgomerycollege.edu). (*Housing and Community Development*)
- 4. 7001 Carroll Avenue Site Tour and Proposed Development Balloon Visualization (Ward 1 and 3):** Saturday, February 25, at 11:00 am, ICG, the owner of properties at 7001 Carroll Avenue that also front on Westmoreland Avenue, will be illustrating the proposed height of a 80,000 square foot development using balloons. The owner-developer has been working with area organizations and is still in the informal pre-application design stage prior to submittals requesting design or construction approval. For more information, please contact Ilona Blanchard at (301) 891-7205 or [ilonab@takomagov.org](mailto:ilonab@takomagov.org). (*Housing and Community Development*)
- 5. Enterprise Zone Meeting (Wards 2, 3, and 6):** The City held a meeting on February 7th titled 'Eyes on the Street,' for business owners in the commercial centers around New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard from Eastern Avenue to Carroll Avenue. The meeting was well-attended and included a presentation by Sgt. Kurt Gilbert on starting a business watch program and a discussion on creating a business association, as well as a report on City initiatives. The attendees supported efforts to establish a business association. For more information please contact David Suls at 301-891-7219 or [davids@takomagov.org](mailto:davids@takomagov.org). (*Housing and Community Development*)

**6. Other Police News:** Chief Creamer is on leave through Feb. 21, with operations commander Capt. Ed Coursey serving as acting chief. Capt. Coursey attended the quarterly meeting of the county Emergency Management Group meeting. Training was conducted for group managers on the Takoma Park Alert system for emergency communications with the public and internally with City staff. An investigator attended a burglary investigations meeting at the U.S. Attorney's Office in D.C.; another attended a robbery investigations meeting. Lt. Cipperly and Ms. Dean attended the Domestic Violence Fatalities Review meeting. *(Police)*

**7. Crime Blotter:** A warrant has been obtained charging an adult male from obtaining an ATM card belonging to another and using it to obtain property over a two-day period, before the account was closed. Robberies continue to be occurring in the Victor 3 beat and X-ray sector. Investigators are looking at connecting the suspects in the V3 incidents. Investigators are coordinating efforts with adjacent law enforcement jurisdictions. *(Police)*

**8. Heart Gallery Exhibit:** The Freddie Mac Foundation's Heart Gallery, featuring portraits of children from the region who are in foster care and waiting to be adopted, will be on display at the Takoma Park Community Center beginning on Monday, February 13 and will run through Friday, February 24. Additional information on the exhibit can be found at [www.freddiemacfoundation.org/heartgallery](http://www.freddiemacfoundation.org/heartgallery) *(Housing and Community Development)*

**9. Poetry Series:** The first in a series of monthly poetry readings hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger and the Arts and Humanities Commission will be held on Thursday, February 23 at 7 p.m. in the atrium area on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center. Featured at this first reading will be the works of Ms. Kateema Lee and Mr. Don Berger. The event is free and open to the public. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**10. Community Center Exhibit:** An exhibit featuring the work of several local photographers will be on display in the main atrium area at the Takoma Park Community Center during the month of March. The opening reception is tentatively planned for Friday, March 10. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available. *(Community Development Department)*

**11. Imbolc Festivities:** About 40 children and parents attended last night's 'Imbolc' festivities, featuring Bill Jenkins with his panoply of instruments from around the world, and the Foggy Bottom Morris Men. The program replaced the 15th. annual Winter Solstice celebration in December, which had to be cancelled due to bad weather. *(Library)*

**12. Spanish Language Circle Time:** Our new Spanish language circle time ("la hora de juego") with Lupe Marks is entering it's third week, and is already attracting a loyal following of parents and children. Lupe is working with Library staff to broaden participation to include more of the Spanish speaking community. The new series is underwritten by the Friends of the Library with funds donated by friends of Mike Morrissey. *(Library)*

13. **Friends of the Library:** The Friends of the Library will hold their Annual Meeting and Board elections on March 28th. Several positions including President are up for re-election. Anyone interested in serving on the Board is invited to contact Ellen Robbins at the Library, who will put them in touch with members of the Nominating Committee.

*(Library)*

14. **The Computer Room:** The larger computer room in the Learning Center is available to the public on Saturdays from 12:00 to 5:00, under the supervision of new staff member Shuko Tamao. *(Library)*

15. **Seniors' Bingo:** Twice a month Bingo games are a big hit with the Senior group. We have up to fifteen people showing up in the new Senior Room for this social event.

*(Recreation)*

16. **Museum Trip:** The Seniors went to the Alexandria Black History Museum this month. The curator, who was born and raised in Alexandria, spoke with the group on how difficult things used to be in Alexandria's black community. The museum ran movies showing West African traditions. One of our seniors visited West Africa and she contributed much to the discussion, enlightening the group. *(Recreation)*